

Clothing is not usually considered property. Unless there is a need to hold clothing as evidence, it is released to the mortuary recovering the deceased. Clothing that presents a health hazard may be disposed of for the safety of all persons involved.

**Q. I NEED TO ENTER MY RELATIVE/FRIENDS RESIDENCE, BUT IT IS SEALED. WHAT CAN I DO?**

- A.** In order to enter you need to obtain permission from the agency listed on the seal. If the seal indicates Public Administrator (yellow seal) involvement call (213) 974-0460. If the seal is a Coroner's seal (blue seal), call (323) 343-0755.

*We hope the advice and counseling provided by your Funeral Director and the information provided in this pamphlet will help you during this time of loss. However, should you need additional assistance, please telephone our office at (323) 343-0512 during regular business hours. After regular business hours, weekends and holidays, please call (323) 343-0714.*

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**Gloria Molina**  
First District

**Yvonne Brathwaite Burke**  
Second District

**Zev Yaroslavsky**  
Third District

**Don Knabe**  
Fourth District

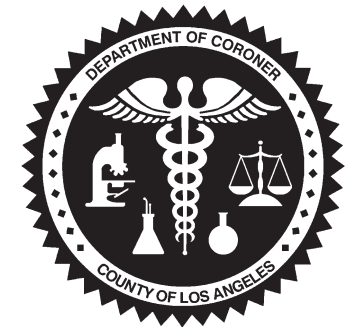
**Michael D. Antonovich**  
Fifth District



**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**  
**William T Fujioka**

Rev. 05/08

**Information  
from the  
County of Los Angeles  
Department of Coroner**



**1104 N. Mission Road**  
**Los Angeles, CA 90033**  
**Business Hours**  
**8:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.**  
**(323) 343-0512**  
**After 5:00 p.m.,**  
**Weekends and Holidays**  
**(323) 343-0714**

**Anthony T. Hernandez**  
**Director**

**Lakshmanan**  
**Sathyavagiswaran, M.D.**  
**Chief Medical Examiner — Coroner**

We at the Los Angeles County Department of Coroner extend our deepest sympathy to you during this difficult time. We hope that the information contained in this pamphlet will assist you by providing answers to commonly asked questions.

**Q. WHERE WILL MY RELATIVE/FRIEND BE TAKEN?**

- A.** He/She will be taken to the Coroner’s main facility located at 1104 North Mission Road, Los Angeles, California 90033, (323) 343-0714.
- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1) Santa Clarita Valley Regional Office<br>14445 Olive Drive<br>Sylmar, CA 91342<br>(818) 364-3323 | 3) Century Regional Office<br>11703 S. Alameda Street<br>Lynwood, CA 90262<br>(323) 868-9524 |
| 2) Antelope Valley Regional Office<br>44900 N. 60th West<br>Lancaster, CA 93536<br>(661) 945-8566  |  |

**Q. IS IT NECESSARY FOR ME TO COME TO THE CORONER’S OFFICE TO IDENTIFY THE BODY?**

- A.** No. In a majority of the cases, visual identification is not required. Should it become necessary for you to come in or provide other records or x-rays, you will be contacted.

**Q. IS VIEWING ALLOWED?**

- A.** No. The Coroner’s facility is not designed to accommodate viewing. Arrangements can be made at the funeral home for viewing.

**Q. HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE BEFORE MY RELATIVE/FRIEND IS RELEASED FROM YOUR OFFICE?**

- A.** Generally it should not take more than two to three days. Your Funeral Director will coordinate the release on your behalf.

**Q. WILL I BE CHARGED FOR OTHER CORONER SERVICES?**

- A.** The County is required to assess certain fees for transportation and storage. You will be asked to pay this fee by your funeral service provider.

**Q. WHERE CAN I OBTAIN A DEATH CERTIFICATE?**

- A.** Death Certificates are filed with the County Health Department by the Funeral Director. Should you require certified copies, they can be ordered through the funeral home or they may be purchased from the Los Angeles County Health Department, at 1313 North Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, California, (213) 240-7816 or the Registrar/Recorder at 12400 E. Imperial Hwy., Norwalk, CA, (562) 462-2137.

**Q. WHY IS THE CORONER INVOLVED?**

- A.** State law requires the Coroner to inquire into and determine the circumstances, manner, and cause of all sudden, violent, or unusual deaths and those deaths where the decedent has not been seen by a physician 20 days prior to death. The deceased will be taken to the Coroner’s Office and examined by a physician to discover the cause of death. A death certificate is issued after the examination is completed. Occasionally, more extensive testing is required, in which case an interim or deferred death certificate is issued which will allow the family to make funeral arrangements. A final death certificate will be issued following completion of special testing.

**Q. WILL AN AUTOPSY BE PERFORMED?**

- A.** The Coroner will decide if an autopsy is necessary to establish the cause and circumstances of death. We may not perform an autopsy if the cause of death can be determined to be from “natural causes” and the deceased has been under the care of a physician who knows the medical history and will furnish the Coroner with information relative to the probable cause of death.

**Q. WHAT ABOUT TISSUE/ORGAN DONATION?**

- A.** You may be contacted by an organ/tissue transplant coordinator. With your consent, many types of tissues may be donated and thereby help others. If you are interested in donation, call the Tissue Donation Hotline at (800) 528-9500 as soon as possible. A representative will be available to answer your questions 24 hours a day.

**Q. WILL AUTOPSY REPORTS BE AVAILABLE?**

- A.** Yes. You may obtain a copy by calling the Coroner’s Document Desk at (323) 343-0512, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. At that time, you will be informed of the cost of this service and how this document or any Coroner records can be obtained.

**Q. MY RELATIVE/FRIEND WAS IN THE MILITARY, WHO CAN I CONTACT FOR INFORMATION?**

- A.** Persons who have served in the Armed Forces, were honorably discharged, and meet other service requirements may be entitled to a Veteran’s burial. For information contact the L.A. County Veteran’s Affairs Office at (213) 253-2677. For information on Military, Veterans or Social Security benefits, contact your funeral director.

**Q. WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?**

- A.** As soon as possible, select a funeral home and inform the funeral director that the death is being handled by

the Coroner’s office. Ask them to please notify us. Our office does not select funeral homes nor do we make arrangements. In the event someone is making the arrangements for the family, the Coroner must be provided with notarized written authorization to release the deceased, signed by the legal next of kin. Should he/she reside at a distant location, they may send a FAX directly to our office: The following format should be used:

CORONER, LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA,  
RELEASE THE REMAINS OF MY (relationship and name of decedent, case #) TO (name of funeral director selected).

SIGNED: (name) \_\_\_\_\_

RELATIONSHIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

CORONER FAX NUMBER (323) 223-5786 OR  
(323) 222-7041.

If a body is to be shipped to a mortuary outside the County, the local mortuary, as well as the distant mortuary must be identified in the FAX.

**Q. THERE ARE NO FUNDS FOR BURIAL, WHAT CAN I DO?**

- A.** If the deceased or the legal next of kin do not have sufficient funds for burial, the alternative may be County disposition. In these circumstances, proof of indigence is required. The next of kin should contact the Coroner’s Notification Unit at (323) 343-0755 and additional information will be made available. If County disposition is authorized, there may be substantial delays in receiving death certificates and as a consequence, certain benefits.

**Q. HOW AND WHEN CAN PERSONAL POSSESSIONS BE CLAIMED?**

- A.** Any personal possessions in the custody of the Coroner, may be claimed by the legal next of kin. Governmental documents (drivers licenses, passports, military identification cards) will not be released to the next of kin. These documents will be returned to the issuing agency for disposition. To avoid any inconvenience to you, call the Coroner’s Personal Property Section @ (323) 343-0515, before coming into the office. The Personal Property Clerk will advise you if any documents will be needed and of any other requirements. The Personal Property Section is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday and is closed weekends and holidays. Sometimes personal possessions are taken into custody by other law enforcement agencies at their request. You will need to deal with those agencies to recover personal possessions in their custody.